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INFO OCT-00 NEA-06 ADS-00 L-03 CA-01 HA-05 H-01 SF-02
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DRAFTED BY CA/OCS/EMR-RDBELT RGR

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L/CA-RHENDERSON (DRAFT)

CA/OCS:JLWARD

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY SL DATE 8/8/81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH 219087-51 REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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FM SFCSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065: N/A

AJS: CASC, IS

SUBJECT: BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY

REF: TEL AVIV: A 11183, B 11770, C 11440, D 11223,

E) 12335

1. THE DEPT APPRECIATES THE EMBASSY'S THOROUGH REPORTING CONCERNING THE GLASS COMMISSION REPORT AND CONDITIONS THAT EXIST AT THE BLACK HEBREW (H) COMMUNITIES. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AS MENTIONED IN REFTELS, DEPT BELIEVES WE SHOULD INTENSIFY INQUIRIES INTO ACTIVITIES OF AMCIT MEMBERS AND BROADEN CONSULAR CONTACTS WITH THE GROUP.

2. THE DEPT IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT GENERAL CONDITIONS

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AT THE BE COMMUNITIES THAT AFFECT THE WELFARE OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDING THERE AND REQUESTS THE EMBASSY TO PROCEED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES.

3. THE DEPT BELIEVES THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS SHOULD VISIT EACH OF THE FOUR BE COMMUNITIES TO DETERMINE FIRST HAND THE WELFARE OF AMCIT MEMBERS. GIVEN THE NATURE OF SOME OF THE COMPLAINTS CONTAINED IN REFTELS C AND D, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS CONDITIONS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS, THE VISITING OFFICER SHOULD ARRANGE FOR PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL AMCIT MEMBERS REPRESENTING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE GROUP.

4. PERHAPS A GENERAL MEETING AT EACH SITE COULD BE ARRANGED SO THAT OFFICERS CAN EXPLAIN TO COMMUNITY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPT AND FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO ALL AMCITS ABROAD. MEMBERS SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE EMBASSY SO THAT EMERGENCY OR OTHER SERVICES TO AMCITS ABROAD CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

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MEMBERS SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO HOLD PASSPORTS, TO REGISTER AND TO DOCUMENT THE BIRTH OF THEIR CHILDREN. OFFICER SHOULD ALSO EXPLAIN DEPT'S AND EMBASSY'S FUNCTION IN PASSING EMERGENCY MESSAGES BETWEEN COMMUNITY MEMBER AND FAMILY IN U.S. WHEN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS NOT AVAILABLE OR TIMELY. THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL AMCITS UNDER THE PRIVACY ACT SHOULD ALSO BE EXPLAINED.

5. THE DEPT HAS RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE BUT THE VISITING OFFICER SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE ALERT FOR ANY SUCH INDICATIONS AND IF THEY

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COME TO HIS/HER ATTENTION THE ALLEGATION MUST BE PURSUED TO DEVELOP ALL AVAILABLE FACTS.

6. THE DEPT IS AWARE OF THE NORMAL HEAVY WORKLOAD CONFRONTING THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION AND UNDERSTANDS THE EXTRA BURDEN IMPOSED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CABLE, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO INITIATE SOONEST THE EFFORT NEEDED TO DEVELOP FACTUAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED BY INDIVIDUAL AMCIT MEMBERS OF THE BH COMMUNITY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE SEPARATE CABLE REPORTS ON THE RESULTS OF EACH VISIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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